

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 57th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN STEVE VICK**, on January 23, 2001 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 102 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Steve Vick, Chairman (R)
Rep. Dave Lewis, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Matt McCann, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. John Brueggeman (R)
Rep. Rosalie (Rosie) Buzzas (D)
Rep. Tim Callahan (D)
Rep. Edith Clark (R)
Rep. Bob Davies (R)
Rep. Stanley Fisher (R)
Rep. Dick Haines (R)
Rep. Joey Jayne (D)
Rep. Dave Kasten (R)
Rep. Christine Kaufmann (D)
Rep. Monica Lindeen (D)
Rep. Jeff Pattison (R)
Rep. Art Peterson (R)
Rep. Joe Tropila (D)
Rep. John Witt (R)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Paula Broadhurst, Committee Secretary
Taryn Purdy, Legislative Branch

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: HB 288 HB 312, 1/23/2001
Executive Action: None.

HEARING ON HB 312

Sponsor: Rep. George Golie, HD 44.

Proponents: Senator Chris Christiaens, SD 23; Will Weaver, Dean of MSU Great Falls College of Technology; Debra Kottel, Commissioner of Cascade County; Dick Croft, Commissioner of Higher Education; Dustin Stewart, Students of MSU and Great Falls; Joe Mazurek, Attorney in Helena, Montana; Inga Nelson, MEA-MFT.

Opponents: None.

Informational Witnesses: None.

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Rep. Golie said this bill is an act appropriating money to the board of regents for planning the expansion of the physical facility at the Montana State University-Great Falls College of Technology. With the expanding participation of area residents and what the college of technology has to offer, it is time to address the need for building expansion. This appropriation fulfills that need.

Proponents' Testimony:

Senator Christiaens said when this facility was built, there was a large part of the building that was not finished. It took a number of years to get the funding to finish it. In the last couple of years things have changed with the usage of that facility, now they now have Montana State University School of Nursing located in this facility. Also, Montana Northern College is in the same facility. There has been an expansion of students by 5% in this school year alone.

Will Weaver said the appropriation that is in this bill will be used for planning and initial building designs for expansion of educational and training room space, plus a research lab on the MSU Great Falls campus.

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Debra Kottel said the Commissioners of Cascade County support HB 312, they feel Cascade County and it's residents deserve access to an adequate level of technical educational opportunities.

Dick Croft expressed his support of the need for this facility in Great Falls. The bulk of their enrollment growth has come in two year programs in the Colleges of Technology in Helena and Great Falls.

Dustin Stewart said the non-traditional students that attend the College of Technology in Great Falls, attend that college because it is very convenient for them and is located in that community. The building is no longer adequate for the number of the students attending.

Joe Mazurek said the Mayor and Commissioners of Great Falls endorse this proposed legislation. The Colleges of Technology are key to economic growth. They devise curriculum serve to the needs of employers around their community.

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Inga Nelson said they support HB 312. They believe it is important to have higher education across the state. Expanding the facility of the Great Falls College of Technology will help achieve this.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

Rep. Vick asked **Tom O'Connell, Architecture and Engineering Department**, to explain long-range building and planning process.

Mr. O'Connell said the process is for all agencies to submit long-range building requests through his division. They work with the Governor's Budget Office to assemble a program of priorities that are fundable to present to the legislature on the long-range building program.

Rep. Buzzas asked **Mr. O'Connell** if engineering studies usually come under long-range planning. **Mr. O'Connell** said they do.

Rep. Topila asked **Mr. O'Connell** about the decisions of the long-range building hearing.

Rep. Jayne asked **Mr. Weaver** if the planning would be conducted by existing employees. **Mr. Weaver** said they would have the opportunity to hire an architecture firm.

Rep. Jayne asked **Mr. Weaver** how long he anticipated the study would take. **Mr. Weaver** said as quickly as they can, within a year.

Rep. Tropila asked **Mr. Weaver** about housing students at the University of Great Falls in the school district buildings. He asked if rent was also being paid to those facilities. **Mr. Weaver** said the arrangement with the University of Great Falls is they would pay tuition for their students to attend there.

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 0.2}

Rep. McCann asked **Mr. Weaver** if they would pursue this project if the bill doesn't make it out of committee. **Mr. Weaver** said yes they would.

Rep. Peterson asked **Mr. Weaver** what he anticipated in terms of public support for this building project. **Mr. Weaver** said as far as building the facility with private money, they would also explore those possibilities.

Closing by Sponsor:

Rep. Golie said the use of this facility has increased with the nursing program and the grants of MSU Northern. There has been a big increase for students with two-year programs, this request fills the need of the community as a local support.

HEARING ON HB 288

Sponsor: Rep. Norma Bixby, HD 5.

Proponents: Senator Glenn Roush, SD 43; Dick Crofts, Commissioner of Higher Education; Kay Unger, MEA-MFT; Rep. Carol Juneau, HD 85; Joe McDonald, Salish-Kootenai College; Sarah Cobler, Associated Students of University of Montana; Tammara Stepper, Salish-Kootenai College; Shawnee Kaol, Salish-Kootenai College; Wendy Hopkins, Ft. Belknap Reservation; Dusty Rose-Hirsh, Associated Students of Blackfeet College; Heidi Sturm, Salish-Kootenai College; Glenda Weasel, Ft. Belknap College; Vicki Overlander, Salish-Kootenai College; Mandy Bird, Blackfeet Community College; Chase Natalie, Ft. Belknap College; Tim Thornton, Salish-Kootenai College; Gary Brown, Blackfeet Community College; Rebecca Bodnae, Salish-Kootenai College; Lance Groff, Salish-Kootenai College; Rep. Bill Eggers, HD 6; RaLynn Scammon, Salish-Kootenai College; Susan Weaselhead, Salish-Kootenai College; Dustin Stewart, Montana Associated Students; T. Rene Kittle, Salish-Kootenai College; Clarena Brockie, Ft. Belknap College; Alette Kinyen, Salish-Kootenai College; Stan

Juneau, Blackfeet Community College; Shawn Whitewolf, Northern Cheyenne; Rep. Joey Jayne, HD 73; Anita Big Spring, Salish-Kootenai College; Rep. Matt McCann, HD 92.

Opponents: None.

Informational Witnesses: Rep. Dave Lewis, HD 55.

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 10.2}

Rep. Bixby said this bill is an inclusion bill for statutory appropriation for money for the Board of Regents to financially assist non-beneficiary students who attend tribally controlled colleges. She handed out information containing: Montana Tribal Colleges Fact Sheet, **EXHIBIT(aph18a01)**. Montana-Integrated Post Secondary Educational Data System-1998 Enrollment, **EXHIBIT(aph18a02)**. Non-Beneficiary Information for Academic Year 1999/2000, **EXHIBIT(aph18a03)**. Overview-Non-Beneficiary Support, **EXHIBIT(aph18a04)**. Overview Non-Beneficiary, **EXHIBIT(aph18a05)**. Commissioner of Higher ED Appropriation Distribution, **EXHIBIT(aph18a06)**. Commissioner of Higher Education, **EXHIBIT(aph18a07)**. College Tuition, **EXHIBIT(aph18a08)**. Miles Community College, **EXHIBIT(aph18a09)**. Committee on Indian Affairs Summer 1999 Report, **EXHIBIT(aph18a10)**.

Proponents' Testimony:

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Senator Glenn Roush said this bill deals with non-beneficiary students attending tribal colleges in Montana. Those colleges are credited institutions of higher learning. Montana businesses would cooperate and work with the tribal colleges to get some high tech courses there and get good paying jobs. This would improve economic development in Montana.

Dick Crofts said they support HB 288.

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Kay Unger said this funding will allow the Board of Regents to support these educational programs on a stable basis and enhance the educational opportunities of all members of these seven communities.

Rep. Carol Juneau handed out a resolution from the Montana-Wyoming Indian Education Association. **EXHIBIT(aph18a11)**. She is the current chairperson of that association. This resolution of support was passed at their annual conference supporting this bill.

Joe McDonald said they support HB 288, it is a Montana resident access to higher education.

Sarah Cobler said they support HB 288, this bill will help enable transition from community colleges and tribal colleges on to the University of Montana.

Tammara Stepper said SKC has made it possible for her to obtain her current Certified Dental Assistant License. She supports HB 288.

Shawnee Kaol supports HB 288.

Wendy Hopkins supports HB 288.**EXHIBIT(aph18a12)**.

Dusty Rose-Hirsh supports HB 288.

Heidi Sturm supports HB 288.

Glenda Weasel said the advantages of a community college are great, and she currently holds a 4.0 average.**EXHIBIT(aph18a13)**.

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Vicki Overlander said with a degree from the Salish-Kootenai College, numerous opportunities will be available to her because of the college reputation for excellence. She supports HB 288.

Mandy Bird supports HB 288.

Chase Natalie said this bill will help future students. He supports HB 288.**EXHIBIT(aph18a14)**.

Tim Thornton said he is both a non-traditional student and a non-beneficiary student. He supports HB 288.

Gary Brown said they support HB 288. Currently there are about 12-15% non-beneficiary students attending their college. This bill will assist in meeting the financial needs and operating costs for the community college. He handed out letters of support for HB 288 from Blackfeet Community College.**EXHIBIT(aph18a15)**.

{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 0.3}

Rebecca Bodnae supports HB 288.

Lance Groff supports HB 288.

Rep. Bill Eggers supports HB 288.

RaLynn Scammon supports HB 288.

Susan Weaselhead supports HB 288.

{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 10.6}

Dustin Stewart said they would like to see equal access and affordability for all Montana students. He supports HB 288.

T. Rene Kittle supports HB 288.

Clarena Brockie supports HB 288.

Alette Kinyen supports HB 288.

Stan Juneau supports HB 288.

Shawn Whitewolf supports HB 288.

{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 16.6}

Rep. Joey Jayne supports HB 288.

Anita Big Spring supports HB 288, she handed out information on the Salish-Kootenai College Non-Beneficiary Student Report, **EXHIBIT** (aph18a16).

Rep. Matt McCann supports HB 288.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Witnesses' Testimony:

Rep. Dave Lewis said his daughter graduated from SKC three years ago and has been working at St. Patrick's Hospital.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

Rep. Vick asked **Mr. McDonald** for clarification on tuition if they don't have this assistance. **Mr. McDonald** said at Salish-Kootenai College they try to keep their tuition as reasonable as possible.

Rep. Vick asked **Rep. Bixby** if credits earned at the college are transferrable. **Rep. Bixby** said credits from tribal colleges do transfer, they may not transfer from a major, but they may transfer as an elective.

Rep. Kaufmann asked **Mr. Crofts** if this contribution has been made for non-beneficiary students in the past, and if this bill now being requested as a statutory appropriation is different. **Mr. Crofts** said that was correct. The tribal colleges were funded in 1996 and 1997 and they were not funded in 1998 or 1999. They were funded in 2000 and this fiscal year.

Closing by Sponsor:

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Rep. Bixby said priorities should be placed on education. Education goes hand in hand with economic development. Tribal colleges play a key role in improving the lives of all their students.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:00 P.M.

REP. STEVE VICK, Chairman

PAULA BROADHURST, Secretary
Transcribed by Donna Huffman

SV/PB/DH

EXHIBIT (aph18aad)